

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SSM-03 /061 W

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R 181501Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3630

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 6825

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SY

SUBJECT: UPCOMING MEETING OF EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN PRIME MINISTERS
IN RIYADH

REF: (A) CAIRO 6731, (B) CAIRO 6707

1. AS INDICATED REF A, FAHMY NOW INTENDS TO ACCOMPANY PRIMIN SALEM TO RIYADH MEETING, MAY 19. REASON IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. AT LAST REPORT, EGYPTIANS STILL HAD NO FIRM INDICATION THAT KHADDAM WILL ALSO GO. FROM THE OUTSET, HOWEVER, FAHMY WAS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN GOING TO RIYADH CONCLAVE. SADAT INITIALLY RULED OUT A MEETING AT FONMIN LEVEL, SINCE THIS WOULD MEAN CONDUCTING TALKS WITH KHADDAM, AND OPTED INSTEAD FOR PRIMIN'S MEETING. IN GUISE OF CAUTIONING SADAT THAT KHADDAM MIGHT AT THE LAST MINUTE STILL GO ALONG, FAHMY HAS KEPT OPEN HIS OPTION OF PARTICIPATING. HE SEEMS NOW TO HAVE PERSUADED SADAT THAT, WHETHER OR NOT KHADDAM GOES, HE SHOULD GO WITH SALEM.

2. FAHMY'S PRESENCE RESULTS FROM TWO CONCERNS: ONE PROCEDURAL AND THE OTHER SUBSTANTIVE. PROCEDURALLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE RESENTS IDEA THAT PRIMIN SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN HIGH

LEVEL FOREIGN POLICY TALKS, WHICH HE CONSIDERS HIS BILWICK. SUBSTANTVELY, HE IS WORRIED THAT PRIMIN LACKS DETAILED BACKGROUND OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES HAVING TO DO WITH EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS AND MAY INADVERTENTLY MAKE AN UNDESIRABLE CONCESSION AT SAUDI AND/OR KUWAITI REQUEST. EVEN THOUGH HE WILL NOT HEAD EGYPTIAN DELETATION, FAHMY'S PRESENCE WILL KEEP PRIMIN FROM STRAYING. EGYPTIAN ARE, OF COURSE, PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THEY NOT BE EUCHRED INTO DISCUSSING SINAI II OR RELATED MATTERS.

3. BELYING SKEPTICISM WHICH GOE IS SEEKING TO FOSTER RE LIKELY RESULTS OF RIYADH MEETING, MFA HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A FLURRY OF ADVANCE PREPARATIONS. FAHMY'S PRINCIPAL AIDES HAVE BEEN BUSY WRITING POSITON PAPERS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS THAT MIGHT COME UP. ONE OF HIS AIDES LEAVES TODAY FOR RIYADH AS AN ADVANCE MAN. DESPITE THESE PREPARATIONS, SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS STILL PROFESS TO BELIEVE NOTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE WILL COME OUT OF THE MEETING.

4. DESPITE HIS EARLIER INTEREST IN MEETING DEAN BROWN, FAHMY'S OFFICE APOLOGIZED TODAY THAT THE MINISTER IS TOO PREOCCUPIED IN PREPARING FOR THE RIYADH MEETING TO RECEIVE BROWN.
EILTS

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